

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated January 19, 2005, which has a shortened statutory period set to expire April 19, 2005.

Claims

Claims 4-7, 9, 12-17, 20-22, and 24-26 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-3, 8, 10-11, 18-19, and 23 are cancelled. Claims 4, 9, 12, 20, 21, and 24 are amended.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1, 8, 18, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,943,784, issued July 24, 1990 to Rybicki (hereinafter "Rybicki"). Claims 1, 8, 18, and 23 are cancelled, thereby rendering the rejection of those claims moot.

Claims 1-3, 10, 11, 18, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,352,073, issued September 28, 1982 to Leuthold (hereinafter "Leuthold"). Claims 1-3, 10, 11, 18, and 19 are cancelled, rendering the rejection of those claims moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4-7, 9, 12-17, 20-22, and 24-26 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable is rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 4 is amended to include all the limitations of Claims 1 and 3, thereby placing Claim 4 in condition for allowance. Claims 5-7 depend from Claim 4, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that Claim 4 is allowable.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claims 4-7.

Claim 9 is amended to include all the limitations of Claim 1 and Claim 8, thereby placing Claim 9 in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claim 9.

Claim 12 is amended to include all the limitations of Claims 10 and 11, thereby placing Claim 12 in condition for allowance. Claims 13-17 depend from Claim 12, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that Claim 12 is allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claims 12-17.

Claim 20 is amended to include all the limitations of Claims 18 and 19, thereby placing Claim 20 in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claim 20.

Claim 21 is amended to include all the limitations of Claims 18 and 19, thereby placing Claim 21 in condition for allowance. Claim 22 depends from Claim 21, and is therefore allowable for at least the same reasons the Claim 21 is allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claims 21 and 22.

Claim 24 is amended to include all the limitations of Claim 23, thereby placing Claim 24 in condition for allowance. Claims 25 and 26 depend from Claim 24, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that Claim 24 is allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claims 24-26.

CONCLUSION

Claims 4-7, 9, 12-17, 20-22, and 24-26 are pending in the present Application. Reconsideration and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions, please telephone the undersigned at (408) 451-5903 to expedite prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as FIRST CLASS MAIL in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April 19, 2005.

4/19/2005 
Date Signature: Rebecca A. Baumann